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Sent: 2/4/2021 3:35:24 PM
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Subject: R7 OPA Daily Clippings - 2/4/21

R7 IN THE NEWS

KOLN Ch. 10/11 Lincoln NE - 'It is poison': Mead residents describe effects of city's ethanol plant – 2/3/21 - There's a growing concern in Mead, Nebraska about the ethanol plant within the city. This has lead Senator Bruce Bostelman to bring legislation to prohibit treated seed corn if it's harmful to people and livestock. <http://bit.ly/3rkIFTx>

Omaha World-Herald – Bill would force ethanol plant near Mead to stop using pesticide-treated seed corn - 2/4/21 - State lawmakers were urged Wednesday to quickly advance and pass a bill that would force an ethanol plant near Mead to stop using pesticide-treated seed corn to produce fuel. <http://bit.ly/2LjUKTI>

Shawnee Mission Post - Johnson County neighbors organize in opposition to 600-acre Edgerton warehouse project – 2/4/21 - "The potential increase in runoff from Edgerton because of a development expanding the extent of impervious surface would not be something KDHE or EPA would regulate nor prohibit," Kristi Zears, communications director of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment said in an email. <http://bit.ly/2MpvaTV>

Cedar Rapids Gazette - Sen. Chuck Grassley anticipates smooth Senate confirmation for Tom Vilsack as ag secretary – 2/3/21 - Iowa's Republican U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley said he anticipates a smooth Senate confirmation of former Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack as President Joe Biden's pick to again head the U.S. Department of Agriculture. <http://bit.ly/39Ncjen>

REGIONAL

KOAM Ch. 7 Joplin/Pittsburg - Galena receives \$40,000 grant to improve water treatment system – 2/3/21 - The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is awarding a \$40,000 grant to the city of Galena, Kansas. The funds will be used to evaluate Galena's wastewater system. <http://bit.ly/2YJ4olr>

Webster (MO) County Citizen – Opinion: DNR, gas leak shows state's incompetency – 2/3/21 - Last week, thanks to the diligence of North Ward Alderman William Pogue and his quest for the simple truth, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provided the city of Seymour with some answers regarding the seemingly eternal situation with the smell of gasoline and associated gas leakage into the city's sewer lines on North Frances Street. As one would expect, the answer from the DNR was vague. <http://bit.ly/3trekod>

2021 TRANSITION

Hutchinson (KS) News - Proposed secretary of agriculture wants to focus on the environment and trade; many Kansas leaders support him – 2/3/21 - Many leaders in Kansas' agriculture community are excited to have former Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack head back to this position. For everyone, he is a known commodity. <http://bit.ly/3rIYmdg>

Washington Times - Biden's Pentagon makes effects of climate change central to military planning – 2/3/21 - Across the armed forces, climate change and its ripple effects are taking center stage in the Biden administration's Pentagon. <http://bit.ly/2Lp1hCE>

The Hill - Water infrastructure — the unmet needs of low-income communities – 2/3/21 - To meet the promise of its day one executive order on Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities, the Biden administration needs to provide low-income communities, communities of color and Indigenous people the same access to clean and safe water that the rest of our nation takes for granted. <http://bit.ly/2NVq9mb>

Lexology - Environmental Justice in the Biden Administration – 2/3/21 - The Biden Administration is seeking to advance "environmental justice" (EJ) through its policy and regulatory priorities in a way that no administration has before. <http://bit.ly/39N9x8L>

Bloomberg Law - Green Hydrogen Backers See Opening in Biden Climate Ambition – 2/3/21 - The green hydrogen industry says it needs the Biden administration and Congress to push on the demand side and pull on the supply side if it wants the technology to play a part in reducing the nation's carbon emissions. <https://bit.ly/3tuyuOi>

Bloomberg Law - EPA Fleshes Out Ranks With More Former Obama-Era Appointees – 2/3/21 - The Biden administration continued fleshing out its EPA ranks on Tuesday, appointing a mixture of Obama-era holdovers and academics to key roles. <https://bit.ly/3pQPTth>

Bloomberg Law - Biden Puts Weight Behind Climate Pledge With Rules Office Pick – 2/3/21 - President Joe Biden has picked Obama-era environmental official Alex Barron as senior counselor in the White House regulatory review office, adding a climate scientist to the team that will vet and sign off on rules written by agencies across the federal government. <https://bit.ly/3tmsxTv>

Biden Administration Names Climate Advisors at NASA, SEC, USDA, GSA – 2/3/21 - President Joe Biden is continuing to build out an administration-wide climate infrastructure with new appointments. This interagency "climate cabinet," anchored by National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy and Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry in the White House, looks to extend to every department. <https://bit.ly/2YHAM7R>

CORONAVIRUS

KSHB Ch. 41 Kansas City - Kansas, Missouri officials say supply continues to be major obstacle in COVID-19 vaccine rollout – 2/3/21 - On both sides of the state line in Kansas and Missouri, COVID-19 vaccine demand continues to outpace supply. "We do not have enough, and that is without question the

source of anxiety," Dr. Lee Norman of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
<http://bit.ly/3oOtIY0>

KSNT Ch. 27 Topeka KS - Kansas health officials find UK COVID-19 variant case in state - 2/3/21
- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment said it identified the first case of the United Kingdom variant of the coronavirus. KDHE said it found the case in Ellis County. <http://bit.ly/2MqWJfC>

AP - A return to normal from COVID is still a ways off, Kansas doctors say – 2/3/21 - Despite improvement in pandemic indicators and the continued roll-out of COVID-19 vaccines, the top doctor in Kansas says it is too early to celebrate and start returning back to normal. <http://bit.ly/3oLvZmP>

AP - Does double-masking provide more protection? Get answers to common COVID-19 questions. – 2/2/21 - Does wearing two masks provide more protection? It depends, but it's possible that doubling up could help in some situations. <http://bit.ly/2YJDQqx>

Missouri Independent - Health leaders appeal to Congress for more vaccines, better communication, increased funding – 2/3/21 - State health officials from around the country had a clear answer when asked Tuesday what they need to better vaccinate their residents: more doses, more information to guide their planning and more money to pay for the mammoth undertaking. <http://bit.ly/3jp04I4>

FUELS

Fence Post - Renewable fuels look to states, marketplace, exports – 2/3/21 - While renewable fuels industry officials will continue to push the EPPA to maintain favorable policies for the industry, their organizations are increasingly focusing on the role that the states, the marketplace and exports can play in increasing consumption. <http://bit.ly/3tsCxdS>

Cedar Rapids (IA) Gazette - Renewable fuels accounted for almost \$4 billion in Iowa's GDP in 2020, report shows – 2/3/21 - Iowa's renewable fuels industry accounted for almost \$4 billion or about 2 percent of Iowa's gross domestic product in 2020, according to a report commissioned by the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association. <http://bit.ly/3axFdhE>

Nebraska Ag Connection - POET Urges Biden Climate Team to Embrace E15 - 2/3/21 - On Tuesday, POET applauded President Biden's leadership in making climate a top priority. Each member of the Biden Climate Team will play a key role in helping the administration make good on its commitment to fight for family farms, end environmental injustice and shift the nation to net-zero emissions. <http://bit.ly/3oQ0Ijf>

FreeThink - Biofuel Rocket Launch Is a First In Aerospace | A future of more sustainable spaceflight could be just on the horizon. – 2/4/21 - With one [rocket launch](#), aerospace startup bluShift just achieved two firsts. Not only was its Stardust 1.0 the first rocket to lift off from the startup's home state of Maine, but it was also the first commercial rocket *anywhere* to get its power from a biofuel. <http://bit.ly/3aNNJt9>

NATIONAL

National Law Review - How Will President Biden's Elevation of Environmental Justice Within the EPA Affect Your Permitted Facility or Redevelopment Project? – 2/3/21 - The Biden administration continues to make many major environmental policy actions aimed at climate change, enforcement, and several other issues. <http://bit.ly/3cNTKZ4>

The Guardian - Joe Biden's plans to combat climate crisis have – predictably – provoked GOP backlash – 2/4/21 - The Democrat in the White House may be different, but the attacks are very familiar. Joe Biden's early blitz to confront the climate crisis has provoked a hostile Republican backlash eerily similar to the opposition that stymied Barack Obama 12 years ago. Once again, efforts to reduce planet-heating emissions are being assailed as radical, job killing and elitist. <http://bit.ly/3jiGAES>

Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail - Manchin touts "all-of-the above" energy policy as he heads first climate hearing of new Congress – 2/3/21 - Presiding over a hearing Wednesday on global climate trends as incoming chairman of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, West Virginia's senior senator urged sticking with the facts, the most important being that climate change is a "critical" issue every country must face. <http://bit.ly/3trivAo>

Yahoo! Finance – Editorial: A Renewable Energy Waste Crisis Is Looming – 2/3/21 - While renewable resources are greatly reducing many forms of waste associated with the fossil fuel industry, clean energy infrastructure contains its own fair share of harmful materials that will require special and costly disposal methods. <http://yhoo.it/2MwtLuw>

Brownfield Ag News - \$2B Settlement Announced For Roundup Cases – 2/3/21 - Bayer has agreed to pay up to \$2 billion as part of a settlement agreement for current and future Roundup cases that claim the herbicide causes cancer. <http://bit.ly/3jkJjhc>

Bloomberg Law - Bayer Floats Revised Plan to Resolve Future Roundup Lawsuits – 2/4/21 - Bayer AG will ask a U.S. judge to approve a settlement of as much as \$2 billion to resolve future lawsuits over claims that its Roundup weedkiller causes cancer, the company said. <https://bit.ly/3jju6wU>

Chemical & Engineering News - Human skin oils drive ozone chemistry in occupied house – 2/3/21 - Ozone pollution is a well-known health concern, but researchers understand less about how the highly reactive molecule behaves indoors in the complex environment of a home. Yingjun Liu of Peking University and coworkers now report that human skin oil drives ozone chemistry in an occupied home as the residents go about their lives. <http://bit.ly/2MUTXz3>

NPR - Could We Pay Back The Earth For What It Provides? A New Report Offers A Roadmap – 2/3/21 - How much is nature worth? It's the question at the heart of a landmark new report commissioned by the British government to evaluate the economic cost of continued environmental devastation. <http://n.pr/39P57hQ>

AP - Germany says it beat 2020 goal to cut greenhouse emissions – 2/3/21 - Germany's economy minister says the country beat its target of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 40% last year compared to 1990 levels. <http://yhoo.it/3rqN9rV>

Energy AgWired - Senators Reintroduce Adopt GREET Act – 2/4/21 - Sens. John Thune (R-SD) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) this week reintroduced the [Adopt GREET Act](#) which would require the EPA to update its greenhouse gas modeling for ethanol and biodiesel. <https://bit.ly/3ttjSyo>

Utility DIVE - Social factors could be final barrier to deep US decarbonization, National Academies report finds – 2/3/21 - The vast majority of the technology needed to realize a full decarbonization of the U.S. economy exists, and most of the technology is more cost effective than fossil fueled alternatives, according to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. But a committee assembled by the NASEM to study decarbonization says all levels of government must do more to ensure the coming economic transition is just and fair to all. <http://bit.ly/3jfW9Ns>

Bloomberg Law - EPA to Launch Broader Review of Asbestos Risks This Summer – 2/3/21 - The EPA this summer will launch a court-ordered review of risks arising from old uses of asbestos that still may lead people to inhale the cancer-causing mineral, an agency official said Wednesday. <https://bit.ly/2MBB0BB>

Bloomberg Law - Climate Suits Pushing Tort Law Into Uncharted Waters (Podcast) – 2/3/21 - A group of big cities are seeking damages from the fossil fuel industry over the costs of climate change. These suits against some of the biggest names in the energy world are taking a very old legal idea—the tort—and trying to adapt it to a new environmental problem. <https://bit.ly/36Hr9RH>

Bloomberg Law - Biden's Climate Adviser Leading Talks with Auto, Utility Sectors – 2/3/21 - White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy and other top officials are in talks with automakers and utilities as the Biden administration determines its next steps for paring greenhouse gas emissions, according to a person familiar with the matter. <https://bit.ly/3pNKw2Z>

Bloomberg Law - Trump's Last Minute Flubs Gift Biden Time to Rewrite Regulations – 2/4/21 - Skeptical courts are giving President Joe Biden a window to reopen last-minute rules that the Trump administration tried to rush out to beat a regulatory freeze. <https://bit.ly/39PcE06>

Inside EPA - Top House Democrats Urge WOTUS Repeal, DOJ Requests Lawsuit Delays – 2/2/21 - Two House Democratic panel chairs are urging President Joe Biden to “to immediately repeal” the Trump administration’s rule narrowly defining waters of the United States (WOTUS), while the administration is seeking months-long delays in a host of suits filed over the policy to give it time to review its position on the rule. <http://bit.ly/2YEaE47>

Inside EPA - DOJ seeks to pause suit over EPA oil & gas methane rollback – 2/3/21 - The Biden administration is urging an appellate court to pause litigation challenging the Trump EPA’s rollback of direct methane standards for new oil and gas facilities, a major policy that top administration officials have already said they will review and likely try to reverse. <http://bit.ly/3cGRYt2>

Inside EPA - Biofuels Producers Seek Role In Providing Near-Term, Low-GHG Fuels – 2/3/21 -

Biofuels advocates are seeking to carve out a role for their industry as a provider of near-term cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector, pressing the Biden EPA to allow higher ethanol blends in motor fuel as the administration balances its support of biofuels with a push to greatly expand the use of electric vehicles (EVs). <http://bit.ly/3jhlw1u>

Inside EPA - EPA Aims To Issue Long-Delayed Federal Landfill Methane Plan By May – 2/3/21 -

EPA is notifying a federal appeals court that it intends to issue in May a long-delayed federal plan implementing landfill methane limits in the vast majority of states, and the agency is also asking that oral arguments scheduled for Feb. 22 over a Trump EPA rule delaying the deadlines for the federal plan be postponed due to the pending action. <http://bit.ly/3cGZrZ2>